

MYTHS & FACTS

ON HOUSE BILL 6402

MYTH: HB 6402 will raise consumer phone bills.

FACT: There is not a single portion of the bill that would allow for or cause prices to increase. And the new services this bill encourages are generally less expensive and better than old services.

MYTH: HB 6402 will allow phone companies to stop offering landline phone service.

FACT: The bill makes no changes to non-competitive basic local exchange or POTS service. Such services will be subject to all of the same rules they're subject to today. Language in the bill at lines 278-280 and 313-324 ensure that such services can not just be taken away.

MYTH: Seniors health will be jeopardized by the bill: medical devices don't work with new technology

FACT: First, any senior that wants a traditional phone will still be able to get one – this bill doesn't change that. More importantly, medical devices work on VOIP and wireless networks and device manufacturers are increasingly making devices for new technologies because they can do more for consumers.

MYTH: HB 6402 is bad for consumers.

FACT: HB 6402 will allow providers to have more resources to invest in cutting-edge broadband products and services which consumers want, instead of complying with outdated and unnecessary requirements.

MYTH: HB 6402 is bad for workers and the economy.

FACT: HB 6402 won't hurt workers, it will help them by freeing investment in new technologies. AT&T hired 375 people in Connecticut in 2012 alone for their new wireless and broadband services.

MYTH: Consumers will be hurt if tariffs are eliminated.

FACT: Eliminating tariffs doesn't change any of the authority that the PURA has to protect consumers and it doesn't deregulate services. Most providers don't even file tariffs. There are dozens and dozens of sections of the statutes which protect consumers and provide authority to the PURA, for just a few of them see C.G.S. 16-20; 16-41; 16-247c; 16-247e; 16-247f; 16-247g; 16-247p; 16-247r.

MYTH: HB 6402 will deprive regulators of needed information by eliminating a single state audit provision.

FACT: Nothing in HB 6402 would preclude state regulators from obtaining information. The bill does nothing more than eliminate outdated automatic and redundant "Ma Bell" era audit requirements where such audits are already required under federal law. This bill expressly preserves the PURA's ability to secure information where it determines that it needs (see lines 164-169 and 172-174 of the file copy). No other state in the country has such a requirement like that found in Connecticut.